

Message Text

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APPROVED BY C:HSNENFELDT

EUR:JLOWENSTEIN

ERDA:WHILL

FLA:CMALIN

NSF:RGREE

EW/ORF/FSE:LBUTCHER

S/S: MR. ORTIZ

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P 191925Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 170861

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, US, UR

SUBJECT: ENERGY AGREEMENT: GEOTHERMAL

REF: (A) MOSCOW 9587, (B) MOSCOW 9683

1. INTERESTED AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENT HAVE REVIEWED DEVELOPMENTS UNDER GEOTHERMAL PROJECT AND EMBASSY'S PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS. WE CONCUR WITH EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT THAT, IF SOVIET POSITION AS REPORTED REF (A) CONTINUES TO STAND, IT IS SERIOUS MATTER. IT REMAINS CONFIDENTIAL

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CONSENSUS OF THOSE PARTICIPATING IN GEOTHERMAL PROJECT

THAT VISIT TO KAMCHATKA IS ESSENTIAL FOR CONSTRUCTIVE COOPERATION. US GEOTHERMAL EXPERTS ARE NOT INTERESTED IN MAKING TRIP TO USSR UNLESS KAMCHATKA IS INCLUDED IN ITINERARY. KAZAKHSTAN WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE SUITABLE SUBSTITUTE. THEREFORE, IT IS WASHINGTON'S VIEW THAT UNLESS A VISIT CAN BE ARRANGED TO KAMCHATKA BY A US TEAM, WE SEE LITTLE REALISTIC PROSPECT FOR COOPERATION IN GEOTHERMAL AREA.

2. EMBASSY INSTRUCTED TO INFORM SOVIETS THAT US SIDE IS PREPARED TO CONTINUE GEOTHERMAL PROJECT AND THAT WE BELIEVE VISIT TO KAMCHATKA FACILITIES, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND

SOVIETS TOOK INITIATIVE IN PROPOSING, IS ESSENTIAL FOR CONSTRUCTIVE COOPERATION. US EXPERTS ARE INTERESTED IN KAMCHATKA BECAUSE, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, IT IS ONLY SITE IN USSR WHERE ELECTRIC POWER IS BEING PRODUCED FROM GEOTHERMAL SOURCES. IT HAS A BINARY CYCLE, WHICH IS ONLY OPERATING ONE IN WORLD, AND KAMCHATKA HAS VERY INTERESTING GEOLOGICAL SETTING, WHICH US EXPERTS WOULD FIND USEFUL FOR COMPARATIVE PURPOSES IN US (I.E., ALASKA). IN TURN, WE BELIEVE SOVIETS WOULD FIND IT USEFUL TO VISIT THE GEYSERS IN CALIFORNIA, WHICH HAS THE ONLY OPERATING DRY STEAM PLANT IN THE WORLD. THE SOVIETS MIGHT ALSO FIND IT INTERESTING TO VISIT LOS ALAMOS, WHERE THERE IS UNDERWAY A PROJECT ON HOT DRY ROCK FRACTURING. IF KAMCHATKA VISIT CANNOT BE ARRANGED, WE SEE LITTLE CHANCE FOR CONSTRUCTIVE COOPERATION. NEGATIVE SOVIET DECISION COULD NOT BUT HAVE ADVERSE IMPACT ON OUR THINKING AS WE PREPARE FOR NEXT JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING WHICH WILL, AFTER ALL, SET PROGRAMS FOR COMING YEAR UNDER THIS AGREEMENT.

3. WHILE WE LEAVE TO THE EMBASSY'S DISCRETION THE MANNER AND THE LEVEL AT WHICH IT MAY WISH TO CONVEY MESSAGE IN LIGHT OF REFTEL (B), WE NOTE THE AMBASSADOR HEADED THE SECOND ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH NEPOROZHNIY AT WHICH AGREEMENT WAS WORKED OUT. HE MAY THEREFORE WISH TO MAKE APPROACH TO NEPOROZHNIY.

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4. FYI. AT THIS STAGE, WE SEE NO PARTICULAR ADVANTAGE IN SUGGESTING WHICH AREAS MAY BE CANDIDATES FOR POSSIBLE CUTBACK, ALTHOUGH--IF IT BECOMES NECESSARY--WE WOULD WANT TO SELECT ONE OF INTEREST TO THE SOVIETS. WE WISH, HOWEVER, TO AVOID PROCESS OF RECIPROCAL AND RETALIATORY CUTBACKS. WE BELIEVE SUCH A DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE

AVOIDED ON ITS OWN MERITS AND PARTICULARLY AT A TIME BE-

FORE A POSSIBLE SUMMIT MEETING. KISSINGER

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